Vancouver metro

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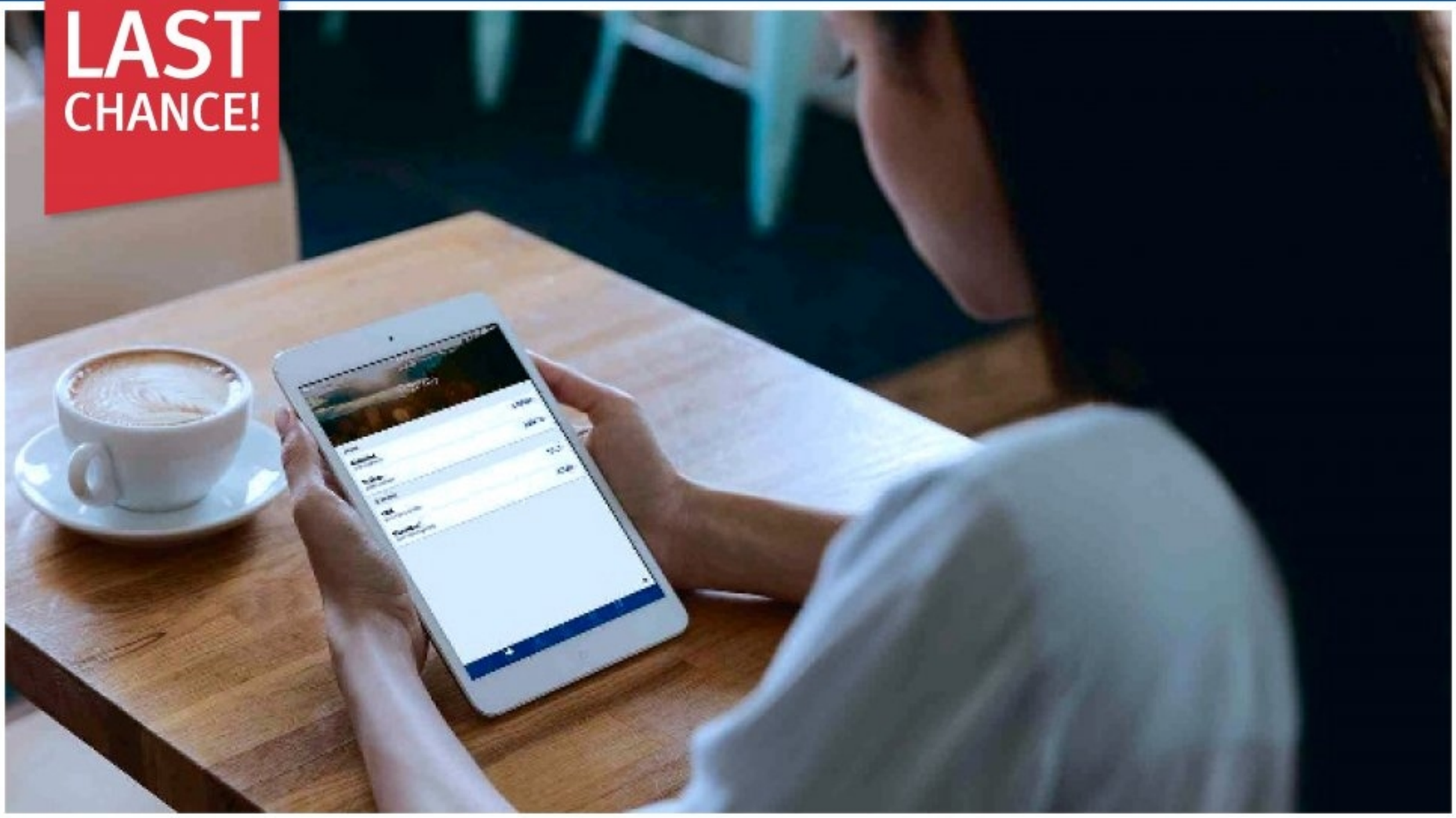

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Your essential daily news | MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2016 | High 20°C/Low 12°C Sun and cloud

CANADA'S FINAL MEDAL COUNT

4 3 15

WORLD CLASS
Canadian athletes bid farewell to the Games
RIO

Ryan, a 38-year-old arborist, hauls water to the 1981 GMC Empress he's called home for three years.
ROB KRUYT/FOR METRO

HOME ON FOUR WHEELS

Ever-increasing rent is pushing some Vancouver residents to live in motorhomes — for years

metroNEWS

Hip inspires indigenous people

FIRST NATIONS

B.C. leaders say iconic band spoke to their experience

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

As he drove home Saturday from a potlatch — the northern B.C. indigenous gift-giving feast and economic system Canada banned until 1951 — Terry Teegee listened intently to CBC Radio's broadcast of the last Tragically Hip show of the group's final tour.

The Tribal Chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council told Metro that the iconic Canadian band was "the soundtrack" to his life since he was a teenager.

So when singer Gord Downie spoke between songs about "very, very bad" conditions facing many First Nations, and directly calling on audience member Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to "get it fixed," Teegee and many of his friends were "speechless," he said.

"Who would've thought that one of the last things you do before you leave this earth, before your journey's done, is saying to the government and Canadians that we have to fix this problem," Teegee said. "He has the pulse of the nation and he knows what is going on and the injustice of indigenous people of Canada.... I can't say thank you enough to Gord Downie and the Tragically Hip."

In words that sparked a flurry of praise on social media, Downie said Trudeau "cares about the people way up North, that we were trained our entire lives to ignore — trained our entire lives to hear not a word of what's going on up there.

"And what's going on up there ain't good. It's maybe worse than it's ever been, so it's not on the improve."

The Hip's support for indigenous issues was no surprise to Teegee, however. He remembers the band's 1995 Another Roadside Attraction concert at the University of British Columbia "like it was yesterday."

At that concert, Downie said, "It's good to be on traditional Musqueam territory again" from the stage.

"Back in 1995, I thought, 'How cool is it that this Canadian band — probably one of the most successful that this country has ever produced — is acknowledging the traditional territory of where they're playing?" he said. "That was awesome.

Teegee's favourite Hip song? Their 1999 hit Bobcaygeon, which references a white supremacist riot against Toronto's Jewish community in 1933.

For Cecilia Point — a Musqueam First Nation member who helped lead her community's successful fight to save a village site and burial ground from development in 2013 — the Tragically Hip's 1993 song Courage was one she turned up before heading out "to the front lines" of the protest.

"Gord (Downie)'s a very inspirational man," she said. "I'm glad he uses his voice to advocate not just for First Nations but for the environment as well."

Point said Courage is particularly resonant in light of Downie's diagnosis with terminal brain cancer and his insistence on performing one last tour.

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Campers the solution to high rents for some

HOUSING

Some residents spend years in Vancouver motorhomes

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

Some residents have spent years living in motorhomes as a way to avoid ever-increasing city rents. ROB KRUYT/FOR METRO

You can find them in most Vancouver neighbourhoods: near the University of British Columbia, on side streets in Kitsilano and Grandview Woodlands and in industrial areas in East Vancouver.

Of a certain vintage and often a little worse for wear, camper vans and motorhomes are home to some Vancouver residents who say they would rather live this way than spend thousands of dollars on housing in the city's pricy rental market.

"The beauty of what I have is, I can change my view whenever I want, and if I don't like my neighbours I can just leave," said Ryan, a 38-year-old Vancouver resident who works as an arborist. He's been living in a 1981 GMC Empress motorhome for the past three years.

"I love the freedom of it."

Craig, a 60-year-old highrise window washer, has lived in his camper for two years.

"I'm not paying $1,200 a month for an (apartment), it's as simple as that," he said, shortly before accepting delivery of a Domino's pizza he'd ordered to his tiny mobile home.

"I know they say we're homeless, but I'm not. I just like to be by myself."

> **I'm not paying $1,200 a month for an apartment, it's as simple as that.** Craig

Ryan and Craig both said living this way on city streets is safe — and cheap. After spending an initial $2,700 to buy his used motorhome, Ryan pays around $50 a month on gas and $50 a month to pay a city parking ticket he said he usually gets, like clockwork, on the third week of the month.

A long-lasting battery powers lights inside the motorhome. He drives the vehicle only short distances to reduce the chance it could be damaged, because that would be a serious setback.

He estimates he's saved tens of thousands of dollars by living in the recreational vehicle.

"I own my own home in Vancouver," he said.

Not everyone is thrilled about the motorhomes on city streets.

The tickets Ryan receives are usually the result of someone making a complaint to the city. City bylaws state that oversize vehicles (taller than seven feet three inches, or longer than 21 feet) cannot be parked for longer than three hours next to a business. Between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., oversized vehicles can't park at all unless the user has a street-use permit.

Similar rules apply to oversized vehicles parked beside a home, school, church or park.

City staff don't know whether the number of motorhomes on city streets have been increasing lately.

But statistics provided by the City of Vancouver show the number of complaints about oversized vehicles (which include vehicles like limousines or delivery vans) have risen in the last four years, from 865 complaints in 2012 to 1,312 in 2015.

Ryan, parked across the street from a food wholesaler, argues the street in the industrial area where he's parked isn't being used "for anything."

"The street's used for dumping garbage," he said.

"I've stopped people from dumping here, like couches and beds. I'm actually saving the city work, but they're still fining me."

CLIMATE PLAN

Premier cops out on carbon

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Environmental groups are criticizing British Columbia's carbon cop-out after Premier Christy Clark unveiled the province's new climate action plan on Friday.

The plan proposes 21 steps, including making electric vehicles more affordable, reducing methane gas emissions, electrifying liquefied natural gas upstream activities, aggressive re-forestation and regulating more energy efficient buildings.

Clark said the plan will reduce B.C.'s emissions by up to 25 megatonnes below current forecasts by 2050.

What it won't do, however, is raise the carbon tax beyond its current $30-per-tonne rate or fully adopt the 32 recommendations made by the province's own Climate Leadership Team. The premier spent as much time in her opening remarks explaining why government won't increase the carbon tax as she did playing up the 21 items in the plan.

As the only jurisdiction in Canada with an existing carbon tax, Clark challenged the other provinces to catch up before B.C. takes further steps to increase its own.

The plan has already drawn sharp criticism from environmental circles.

Invited to speak at the plan's announcement, Sybil Seitzinger, executive director of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, said the plan, as is, will only take the province halfway to its 2050 goal of reducing emissions by 80 per cent over 2007 levels.

The plan calls for the biggest decreases in emissions to be in the forestry and agricultural sectors, but Seitzinger said the there needs to be "much more detail" to see how exactly that will be achieved.

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Levente Orbán in his bee cognition lab. COURTESY LEVENTE ORBÁN

Bee researcher buzzing about lab

SCIENCE

Bees can help us understand the human mind: Psychologist

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Surrey research psychologist Levente Orbán has discovered the most dangerous possible area of study.

That's because the co-founder of Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Bee Cognition Lab is deadly allergic to bees.

"I've developed a severe allergy in the lab," he told Metro. "I got stung three or four times and each time it got worse."

But he remains as passionate as ever about his study subjects, which he believes can teach much about how the human mind works.

"The research question that has guided me is how is it possible for bees to find a flower if they leave their nest for first time? How do they know what a flower is like?" he said. "No one is giving them a picture of what (a flower) looks like, and none of the flowers look the same.... These are very fundamental questions about how the brain makes sense of the visual world."

Bees offer an ideal research subject in a laboratory because, unlike rats, bees have a much shorter life cycle and are therefore less likely to be influenced by lab conditions, he said.

"They have small but very capable brains," Orbán said, adding that bumblebees are more similar to human society than honeybees — with "worker" bees even able to plot their queen's assassination, for instance — and overall bees have social learning like humans and have closer colour perception than rats or dogs.

> **They have small but very capable brains.**
> Levente Orbán

Founded at Kwantlen last year, his laboratory is home to roughly 600 bumblebees, and a mesh-enclosed "flight cage" that he and other researchers use to closely monitor the insects' movements using cameras and, occasionally, radio frequency identification (RFID) chips.

Orbán will speak about "The Inspiration of Bees" on Monday at 7 p.m. at Telus World of Science (1455 Quebec St.).

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Bike rental shops feel the pinch

MOBI

Owners say share programs not a 'level playing field'

Laura Fortey
For Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver's new bike share is off to a roaring start, but local bike rental companies say they have been feeling the impact of the new competition.

"While it's great to see more bikes in lanes, it's tough on shop owners who pay rent and taxes to compete with government subsidized competition," said Brian Vetter, owner of Spokes Bike Rentals, on West Georgia Street at Denman.

"We don't have an even playing field here ... we were told (Mobi) is for commuters and won't target tourists," claims Vetter.

Mobi launched on July 20 with 23 stations and 250 bikes. It eventually aims to expand to 150 stations and 1,500 bikes.

At its launch last month, Vancouver Bike Share general manager Mia Kohout said the city had taken steps to address concerns from bike rental companies.

"(Mobi) is geared to improve our transportation network, it's not made as a recreational system for tourists," said Kohout. "If you keep a bike longer than 30 minutes, you're going to be dinged for an additional $5 for every half-hour you keep that bike. I think it's important to see that bike share is not the same as bike rentals."

On Thursday, Mobi opened up to the wider public, offering a $7.50 day pass, which gives the user unlimited rides under 30 minutes. Monthly pass options ranging from $10 — $20 are also now available.

Joe Kainer, owner of English Bay Bike Rentals, said a double Mobi stations sits at the entrance to Stanley Park, on the corner of Davie and Denman, just 75 metres from his shop.

Jason Bernknopf and Audrey Gil, visiting from Austin, Tex., rent Mobi bikes for the first time, beside Canada Place on Sunday.
LAURA FORTEY/FOR METRO

"We see people renting bikes from there all the time," said Kainer. "I would like to see Mobi succeed in what they claim, providing transportation for locals who need a short trip use ... but it is upsetting when the government takes tax dollars and subsidizes a private American company to compete with the locals."

On Sunday a sampling of Mobi racks found that while the bike share is attractive to tourists, visitors were finding it difficult to use. The need to visit the website, create a profile, sign up and pay extra for trips longer than 30-minute increments didn't allow for easy rental for visitors.

"We rented bikes in Chicago and the system there is much more user friendly," said Jason Bernknopf from Texas.

"I can't find an app and it is frustrating to use the website. Registering shouldn't have to be part of the process," said Bernknopf.

Two tourists from Germany were having trouble with registering their account and using up data on their phones.

"In our town bike sharing is free for the first 30 minutes, so this seems rather expensive to be charged every half-hour," said Sabina Hofmann-Paetzold.

In the end the pair couldn't unlock the bikes and decided Spokes Rentals would better suit their desire to explore Stanley Park for the day.

WITH FILES FROM MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

MOBI

- Launched July 20
- Signed up almost 3,800 members
- 43 stations
- Almost 500 bikes
- Expanding to 150 stations with 1,500 bikes
- Over 25,500 total rides
- Average of more than 700 trips per day
- Day pass $7.50
- Geographic area: Downtown peninsula, Arbutus Street, 16th Avenue and Main Street

BIKO

Startup wants to reward cyclists

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

A Colombian startup that aims to reward cyclists for riding their bikes is hoping to make Vancouver its first English-speaking city.

"It's a mobile application that rewards people for urban biking," said Emilio Pombo, chief marketing officer for Biko.

"What we're actually doing is paying people to get on bikes and start using bikes to commute in their cities."

Biko is in talks with Mobi, the bike share that started in Vancouver one month ago, and has lined up several business partners, including Big Rock Brewery and several local bike shops, said Pombo.

Cyclists can use the app to track their bike rides and earn a "biko" point for every kilometre they ride. They can then redeem their points at participating businesses for discounted food or services. The benefit to businesses is increased customer traffic and being able to feature their participation in the program as part of a commitment to sustainability, Pombo said.

The company already operates in Bogota, Colombia, and Mexico City, where it has partnered with multinational companies like Starbucks, Visa and Uber, as well as local coffee shops and restaurants. While the company is currently headquartered in Bogota, the venture capital investors funding the startup are Canadian.

Biko makes money by taking a 30 per cent cut when the special offers are redeemed (an example is getting a second cappuccino free at Starbucks).

The company also hopes to find a market for the bike usage data it collects from users as cities look to expand bike infrastructure.

Pombo thinks Vancouver's craft breweries would be a particularly good fit for Biko; the company is also in talks with Lululemon and Mountain Equipment Co-op.

Mia Klahout, general manager for Mobi, said the bike share had not yet formalized a partnership with Biko, but sees "great synergies between Mobi and Biko in the very near future."

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People who couldn't get a ticket to the concert gathered in Springer Market Square in downtown Kingston Saturday night. One third of all Canadians tuned in to the show on CBC (TV, online and radio): That's 11.7 million people. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hip rock the nation

KINGSTON

Band's last show over but fans hope for Downie's return

Kristen Lipscombe
Metro | Halifax

The grey skies above Kingston seemed to weep Sunday morning.

Following a bright and sunny day that brought tens of thousands into the small south-eastern city's downtown core to celebrate The Tragically Hip, strong currents of wind and curtains of rain blew through the band's hometown, leaving downtown streets empty in the wake of the previous night's historic Canadian concert.

Not long after the rain lifted, an antiques dealer set up his weekly Sunday shop in Springer Market Square, one man alone with his wares, standing in the same spot where more than 25,000 had gathered Saturday night to take in the final show of the Man Machine Poem Tour, live on the big screen.

A trio of Kingston natives, who came back to their hometown after scoring tickets to the show at the K-Rock Centre, crossed the barren square outside of City Hall, commenting on the post-concert emptiness.

"There's nobody around," Steve Mitchell, who came home from Vancouver to see the show, along with sister Julia Boileau and childhood friend Gord Sinclair (yes, that's his name "for real" and no, he's not the guy in the band).

Mitchell admitted to staying up a little too late Saturday night, and having a few drinks to mark the rockin' festivities, which likely contributed to why many locals and visitors decided to stay indoors Sunday.

"This was a different performance; it's kind of like he was saving it for this," said Mitchell, who attended the Vancouver show.

Gord Downie sang his heart out and bared his soul not just in Kingston but in cities across the country on an emotional tour following his announcement of being diagnosed with terminal brain cancer.

"They're all so courageous; it's amazing," Boileau said. "I think he's done wonders for Kingston. I think he's done wonders for the cause."

Downie, along with bassist Gord Sinclair (the one in the band), guitarists Paul Langlois and Rob Baker, and drummer Johnny Fay, have long contributed to the Kingston community, and Canadian culture as a whole.

Most recently, the band has established the Gord Downie Fund for Brain Cancer Research at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto, where he's currently being treated.

"They do a lot of work in the area," Sinclair said. "They're a great hometown band; it's sad to see it end."

His friend Mitchell is not convinced it's all over.

"The guy looks pretty fit; he's going to be around for a while," Mitchell said.

"I don't think that's the end of it."

FANS REACT

"Knowing what (Gord Downie) was going through, he was definitely struggling, but he put on a hell of a show.

Owen Barr, 18

"It was a really good display of community, I think, which Kingston's really good at... It was certainly a national celebration The entire thing was really moving.

Ashley King, 24

"It felt like being a part of history. Something that has meant so much to Kingston, and has been such a part of the city, coming to an end was really sad, but kind of beautiful and intimate at the same time.

William Wellman

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RETREAT

Philpott aims to shed controversy

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his cabinet went back to school Sunday with one minister — Jane Philpott — trying to shed her newfound reputation as a problem pupil.

The health minister used the start of a two-day cabinet retreat at Laurentian University to apologize in person for repeatedly using a pricey luxury car service owned by a man who volunteered on her election campaign last fall.

Casting the controversy as a learning experience for all ministers, Philpott repeated her vow, made in a written statement last week, to reimburse at least $3,700.

"I'm happy now to say in person, in front of all of you, that I apologize for what took place," Philpott told reporters on her way into the retreat, her first public appearance since the controversy broke last week.

"The costs were too high. Those costs were inappropriate and I apologize for that."

Philpott called the controversy "a mistake" and insisted she never deliberately intended "to do anything that was wrong."

Still, she admitted that she could have been more clear when she told Parliament, in a written response to an opposition question placed on the House of Commons order paper, that she'd never used a limousine service.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health Minister Jane Philpott THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mohammed Ibrahim, a Syrian refugee with an amputated leg, catches a wave. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Water is 'freedom'

INCLUSION

Surfers with disabilities hit the waves in Nova Scotia

Surfers of all abilities hit the water at a Nova Scotia beach this weekend for They Will Surf Again, an event that allows people with disabilities to enjoy the freedom of riding the waves.

More than 40 people with disabilities, including 14 recent immigrants from Syria and Iraq, signed up for the event at Martinique Beach near Halifax on Saturday. Organizers say it is the only Canadian stop for Life Rolls On, which sets up similar events in cities across the continent.

Jesse Billauer, who founded the U.S.-based organization after a surfing accident rendered him quadriplegic around 20 years ago, flew in from California to support the roughly 115 volunteers assisting with the event.

"It makes you feel weightless ... A lot of people in wheelchairs don't get that sensation," Billauer says. "By being able to get out into the ocean, (they) have that freedom and independence they might have lost."

Justin Burdon, who has a brain injury, experienced the ocean for the first time in 12 years as he rolled along the waves with a full-faced grin, his surfboarded guided by a group of volunteers.

His mother, Elizabeth Burdon, says "his smile says it all." She says it's usually hard for individuals with disabilities to get to the beach.

"When you're restricted physically in your body ... I think being able to move along effortlessly on a surfboard in the water must just seem like freedom," she says. "(You're) on par with everybody else."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Scoop victims go to court
Thousands of aboriginals who argue the federal government robbed them of their cultural identities finally get their day in court this week but will have to wait months for Canada to make their case in the unprecedented class action Ottawa has fought every step of the way.

The plaintiffs and supporters from all over Ontario are expected to rally at the courthouse on Tuesday as their lawyers press for summary judgment in the legal battle started in February 2009. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Child suicide bomber attacks wedding party

TURKEY

More than 50 people killed, and nearly 70 wounded

A child suicide bomber killed at least 51 people and wounded nearly 70 others at a Kurdish wedding party near Turkey's border with Syria, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Sunday, decrying the attack as an apparent attempt by Daesh extremists to destabilize the nation by exploiting ethnic and religious tensions.

"As of now, the preliminary conclusions by our governor's office and the police establishment point to an attack by Daesh," Erdogan said.

"It was clear that Daesh had such an organization in Gaziantep or was attempting to make room for itself in recent times," he said.

People mourn for victims of a weekend attack on a wedding that left at least 51 dead in southeastern Turkey. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The bombing late Saturday in Gaziantep was the deadliest attack in Turkey this year.

It comes amid ongoing struggles between the government and Kurdish militants linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, known as the PKK, and as the country is still reeling from the aftermath of last month's failed coup attempt, which the government has blamed on U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen and his followers.

Erdogan said immediately after the Gaziantep attack, which he blamed on Daesh, that any strategy "meant to incite the citizens against each other along ethnic and religious lines will not work."

Later, addressing the nation before Istanbul's city hall, Erdogan said the attacker in Gaziantep was aged between 12 and 14. He said 69 people were wounded, with 17 of them in critical condition.

The pro-Kurdish political party HDP condemned the attack on the wedding, which it said was attended by many of its party members.

It said in a statement that it was "quite significant" that the attack, which it also blamed on Daesh, came hours after the Kurdistan Communities Union, a militant organization that includes the PKK, announced plans to try to negotiate to end a three-decade conflict between Kurdish militants and the Turkish government.

The bride and groom weren't in life-threatening condition and were undergoing treatment, but the groom's sister and uncle were among the dead, Anadolu reported. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIDDLE EAST

Brother of wounded Syrian boy has died

The brother of a wounded Syrian boy who gained international attention has died three days after suffering serious injuries in an air raid on the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, opposition activists said Sunday.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Aleppo-based activist Baraa al-Halaby said that Ali Daqneesh, 10, died on Saturday from wounds sustained in the same airstrike on a rebel-held neighbourhood in Aleppo.

Syrian activists released haunting footage showing Ali's brother Omran Daqneesh, 5, rescued from a partially destroyed building in the aftermath of the airstrike late Wednesday. Omran was treated and later discharged.

The Halab Today opposition TV station posted a photo of Ali in a hospital with a tube coming out of his mouth, saying he later died from his wounds.

Omran was rescued along with his three siblings and his parents from the rubble of their partially destroyed apartment building, according to photojournalist Mahmoud Raslan, who took the memorable photo. The building collapsed about an hour after the family was rescued. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ali Daqneesh, 10, the brother of Omran, who gained international attention, has succumbed to his injuries. RAF SANCHEZ/TWITTER

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, August 22, 2016

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

At work, I took a nice water bottle from the pantry. I thought someone must have forgotten it. Later a colleague came by looking for it. If I give it back now, he'll surely think of me as a thief. What should I do?

Dear Ellen,

I know I have done something wrong. In the pantry at work, I saw a nice water bottle and thought that someone must have forgotten it there. I really liked it and kept it in my bag. Then, about two minutes later, a colleague came by, dumbstruck that his water bottle had disappeared. I thought if I told him I took it, I would come in his bad books of stealing. He looked around and asked people for about 20 minutes before giving up. I genuinely thought that the bottle was left there and no one wanted it. Now I feel really bad but don't know what to do. If I give the bottle back now, he will surely think of me as a thief. Right?

Thanks, Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

This is a classic error, one that many of us have made. Caught in an innocent but embarrassing faux pas, we choose to lie our way out of it — either by commission (vigorous denials) or omission (playing dumb).

A person with no conscience would leave it there, privately regret the error, quietly dispose of the water bottle, and move on.

A person with an evil side might even take advantage of the situation and take it further — framing a workplace nemesis by planting the "stolen" water bottle on their desk or in their locker, then pointing the aggrieved colleague toward the evidence and sitting back to watch the fur fly.

But you, Anonymous, are clearly a person of firm morals and exquisite conscience — perhaps not quite as guilt-ridden as the murderer Raskolnikov in Crime and Punishment, but clearly suffering greatly for your inadvertent crime.

The most obvious solution is to come clean and return the water bottle along with a copy of the letter you sent me, above. Hopefully, your colleague will have a sense of humour about the whole zany situation and you can both have a good laugh about it!

Then again, he could accuse you of being a common thief, report you to HR for stealing and persuade everyone in your workplace to ostracize you from now on. That would be unpleasant, and I wouldn't blame you for considering other options.

I would caution you against any sitcom solutions. For example, if you FedEx the water bottle to your outraged colleague, with an anonymous note claiming to be a reformed kleptomaniac courier, sitcom logic would inevitably require your colleague to contact FedEx, make them narrow down the list of suspects, and get an actual, innocent courier fired — which would make you feel even worse.

My advice is to discreetly return the water bottle to the pantry. Stuff it into a cupboard or toward the back of the fridge, but make sure it will eventually be found.

Your colleague will soon have his precious water bottle back and, hopefully, conclude it was an innocent office mix-up, which, basically, it was.

No harm, no foul. And next time you'll know to pipe up and take your lumps in the moment, rather than drag out the torture by trying to wiggle out of it.

Next time you'll know to pipe up and take your lumps in the moment, rather than drag out the torture by trying to wiggle out of it.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

It's time to get behind International Safe Abortion Day

Among the confounding aspects of anti-abortion laws is the fact that they have a negligible impact on actual abortion rates.

Internationally, the rate of abortion in countries with highly restrictive laws is about 37 for every 1,000 women of childbearing age — compared to 34 for every 1,000 in countries with higher access, according to the Guttmacher Institute.

In essence: Many women who want or feel they need to terminate a pregnancy will find a way, no matter the risk (abortions cause an estimated 15 per cent of maternal deaths). That makes anti-abortion laws a colossal policy failure, as well as dangerous.

And yet, thanks to the iron grip of those religiously or ideologically opposed to them, abortions remain taboo on the world stage.

This September, hundreds of organizations from 73 countries are pushing for the United Nations General Assembly to designate Sept. 28 as International Safe Abortion Day, something already celebrated, but without such official backing.

The move would be largely symbolic — a chance to draw awareness and donors. An opportunity for countries like Canada to apply diplomatic pressure to nations like Paraguay, which last year refused a 10-year-old rape victim an abortion.

A day wouldn't force any country to change its law. It wouldn't give women better access to safe abortions (at least, not directly).

And yet, Marge Berer of the International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion has little hope the measure will succeed. The political influence of nations — mainly in Latin America, Africa and Asia — that continue to outlaw abortion in all or most cases is almost certain to be a stumbling block, she told me.

"I'm not expecting a fast easy win here, but I do think that if things go right, we will have started a conversation that I hope will take off," Berer said.

The Zika outbreak could fuel that. Latin America — the birthplace of the Sept. 28 day of advocacy — is ground zero for renewed international scrutiny of abortion rights in the wake of the virus, which gravely damages fetuses. Requests for abortions in Brazil, for example, have reportedly doubled.

"We are all very alarmed and I do not want have a sick baby, please," one Peruvian woman begged an online abortion pill provider.

Canada should not count itself among the nations indifferent to this woman's suffering, and millions like her around the globe. We should get behind International Safe Abortion Day.

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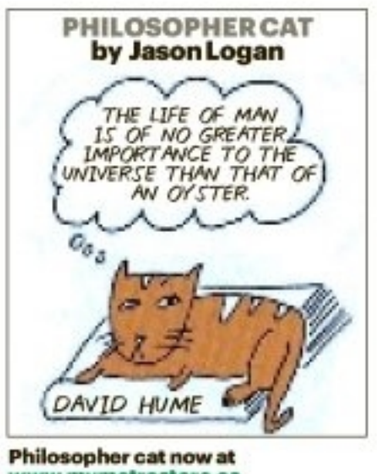

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Comedian Mike Ward seeks to appeal ruling he must pay artist Jeremy Gabriel $35K for mocking him

Board games

"I feel like the Olympics needed us more than we needed them at this point," Tony Hawk tells Metro, about the inclusion of skateboarding in the Summer Games. COURTESY GEORGE PIMENTAL

INTERVIEW

Tony Hawk's clothing line is going mainstream

Genna Buck
Metro Canada

Tony Hawk isn't just a skateboarding legend, 10-time gold medallist at the X Games and star of one of the most beloved video games of the early 2000s.

He's also a philanthropist who helps fund skate parks around the world, and a father of four, including 23-year-old pro skateboarder Riley Hawk.

And though he's toned down his daredevil ways at 48, Tony Hawk is still doing gravity-defying tricks for a new generation of skaters and fans on social media.

Now his clothing line — which for now is only for men and boys — is headed for the mass market via Walmart.

Metro caught up with Hawk between demos at Toronto's Yonge-Dundas Square to chat about closing skateboarding's gender gap, and how the Olympics could make the sport truly global.

When you started skateboarding, it was a bit of an underground thing. Is there anything left of that?

I think there are still the hardcore skaters that want to go out and hit the forbidden terrain, and the handrails — the public spaces that they're not supposed to. That element is very much alive in skateboarding. On the other side of that, there's a very real opportunity to make a career out of it. So I don't see the success taking anything away from the heart of skateboarding.

What does the inclusion of skateboarding in the Olympics mean to you?

It's a sense of validation. At the same time, I feel like the Olympics needed us more than we needed them at this point. They needed that cool factor in the Summer Games, and they're going to get it with skateboarding.

Is there anything you see skaters doing now that makes you say, "Wow, that never would have happened in my day"?

I'm delighted by the tricks that are happening, that kids learn early on. Stuff that wasn't even invented when I was their age. Those are considered the basics now. For instance, a kickflip (where a rider flips their board 360 degrees horizontally). Rodney Mullen created it. I think I was 13 at the time. No one else could do it for years. It took me a long time to learn it. Basically, if you start skating (now), people expect you to do it.

Why is your clothing line being sold at Walmart? It's not the punkest retailer that comes to mind.

Our clothing line was originally our own. Quicksilver bought it, and then it was in stores in the U.S. and it kind of remained stagnant there, because Quicksilver was having problems. Cherokee bought it, and our first direction to Cherokee was: We want to make this international. Walmart picked it up, and we're thankful because it's way more affordable and the same quality.

Why is the line only for boys and men?

A girls' collection is a great idea and certainly something we are considering.

What would you say to a girl who's interested in the sport?

It's a new sense of freedom. It's a way to be creative, and I think it's a way to find self-confidence that maybe you can't find in other places.

METRO ASKS ON THEIR BEHALF

Members of Toronto's Babes Brigade — a women's skateboarding group whose name was inspired by Tony Hawk's one-time squad the Bones Brigade — had some questions for one of their heroes.

You have been able to watch the skateboarding scene develop over the years. Where do you see it going in the future in regards to popularity? Will it continue to grow?
-Stephanie Battieste

COURTESY CHRISTELLE GROB

Hawk's answer: I think so, just based on how it's growing internationally. We've seen skate scenes blossoming in Cambodia, Ethiopia, South Africa, in the most unlikely places. Now, with the inclusion in the Olympics, we're going to see that go even further.

COURTESY CHRISTELLE GROB

What do you think about the gap in prize money for skate competitions? For example, when men win $200K and women $30K in the same competition. Do you see that gap closing?
- Chantal Garcia

Hawk's answer: I think it is closing as we speak. I'm not really in charge of any of that, so I'm not going to say I'm going to make these demands on it, but I see the equality shifting in unlikely places, like Afghanistan, like South Africa — the ratio of boys to girls skating is equal. That's not the case in North America. With the Olympics, if you include a sport, it's male and female. So out of the gate, we're going to have equal events.

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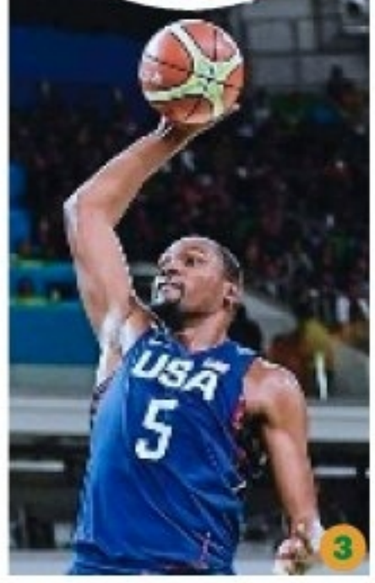
Two Mongolian wrestling coaches stripped to protest Ganzorigiin Mandakhnaran's loss to Uzbekistan's Ikhtiyor Navruzov for a bronze medal



1 Strong finish — The host Brazilians ended off on a high winning gold in men's volleyball. They beat Italy 25-22, 28-26, 26-24 in the final.

2 Golden again — Middleweight Claressa Shields became the first American boxer of either gender to win two Olympic boxing gold medals when she beat Kazakhstan's Dariga Shakimova 3-0.

3 U.S. too strong — Kevin Durant poured in a game-high 30 points for the U.S. in a 96-66 victory over Serbia in the gold-medal game in men's basketball. The Americans finished with 46 gold medals and 121 overall.

4 Mountain man — Switzerland's Nino Schurter blew away the field in men's cross-country mountain biking. PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

Going above and beyond their goals

RIO2016

Canada finishes 10th in total medals with 22

The Canadian medal haul is impressive, 22 in all, the most ever in a non-boycotted Olympics and more golds than any Games since 1992 in Barcelona, a total that exceeded the more optimistic of predictions.

But Canada's performance in Rio was more than that, it was the way the athletes handled themselves in victory and defeat, how they met the challenges that always arise, how they didn't succumb to the predictions of organizational horror.

How they were Canadian.

"We feel we did a really strong and successful job of having our athletes understand the environment they are coming into, to be respectful of the environment that they're in and complying and using common sense," chef de mission Curt Harnett said at a Games wrap-up news conference Sunday morning.

"It's all about the plan and what the COC does very well is plan and prepare."

All that planning and preparation allowed the athletes to put on a collective performance few saw coming.

Trampolinist Rosie MacLennan won one of Canada's four gold medals. DAVID RAMOS/GETTY IMAGES

Canada finished with 22 medals — four gold, three silver, 15 bronze — that, discounting the boycotted 1984 Los Angeles Games, matches the best-ever total from Atlanta in 1996.

There were Canadian and Olympic records set in the pool and on the track; there is every reason for Canadian Olympic Committee officials to laud the work of the men and women on the fields of play.

"We knew Canada was going to be great but they crushed it," assistant chef de mission Carol Huynh said.

43

Canadian athletes came up with 43 top-five finishes.

Canadian women won 16 of the 22 medals and Penny Oleksiak, the 16-year-old swimmer who won four of them, was named the flagbearer for Sunday's closing ceremony.

"Definitely on the camaraderie side of it, there was a little rib-jabbing from the women on the team, saying 'When are you guys going to step up?' but the support and the spirit within the village ... was really quite spectacular," Harnett said.

Canada's total put it 10th among countries via the COC mandate of total medals rather than being ranked by golds, surpassing their goal of a top-12 finish. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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RECIPE Chicken Paillard with Basil Avocado Salsa

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

What do you make in a heat wave? Dinner salads like this that are short on cooking time but long on flavour.

Ready 20
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- kosher salt
- pepper
- 1/2 cup diced red onion
- about 12 cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 cup diced cucumber
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil, plus more for garnish
- 1 1/2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3 large, ripe avocadoes, diced
- 2 tsps olive oil

Directions

1. Place chicken between two pieces of plastic wrap or inside a plastic bag; pound to 1/4-inch thick using a mallet or rolling pin. Season with salt and pepper.

2. In large bowl, toss onion, tomatoes, cucumber, basil, lemon juice and salt. Gently mix in avocado.

3. Lightly oil grill grate with oil-soaked towel. Grill chicken, turning once, until cooked through and grill marks appear, about 2 minutes per side. Transfer to a clean platter. (**Or** you can cook your chicken in a large cast iron skillet over medium heat. Warm 1 tsp oil and add two chicken breasts and cook 4 minutes on each side. Repeat with the last two breasts.)

4. Serve chicken with salsa, drizzle olive oil and sprinkle of chopped basil.

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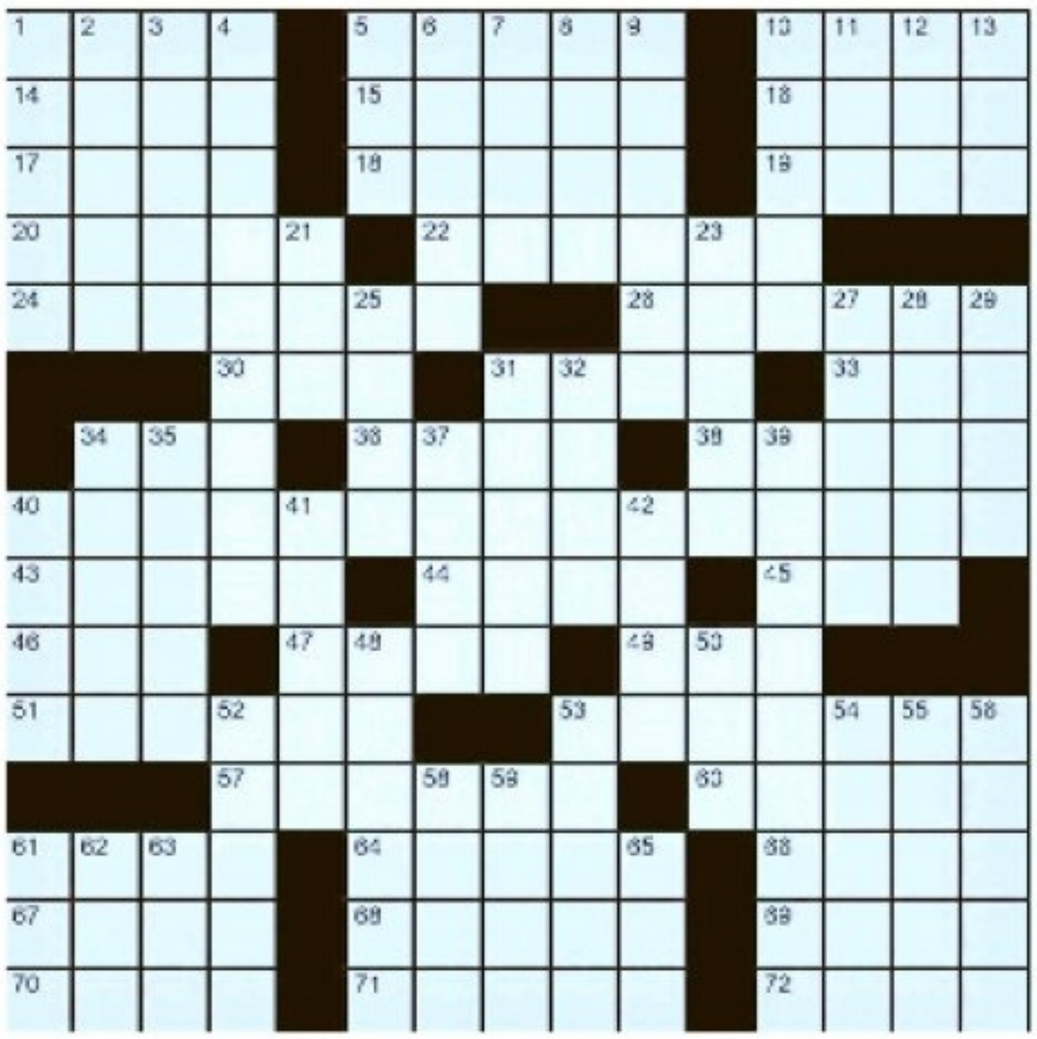
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "__, Can You Hear Me?" by Barbra Streisand
5. Arf! __ Apso
10. Bonfire bit
14. Pronto! to a CEO
15. Boring tool
16. Go backpacking
17. Giddy-up helper
18. Band Eric Clapton once was in
19. Particular
20. Cylindrical crops-containing country constructions
22. Acting do-over
24. New$ $tory, The __
26. Skims, as soup
30. __ generis (Unique, in Latin)
31. Chunk
33. US state
34. Mai __ (Cocktail)
36. Design style, Art __
38. Hawk's home
40. "Rich Girl$" Canadian band: 3 wds.
43. Not napping
44. Souls: French
45. Smidgen
46. Ms. Streep, to pals
47. Hope of US soccer
49. "Where the Boys __" by Connie Francis
51. "__ Little Liars"
53. Defended, as a castle
57. Take to be true
60. Topic
61. Car rental company
64. Verity
66. Barbera d'__ (Wine of Piedmont, Italy)
67. Great __ Valley
68. "Doctor Dolittle" (1967) star Samantha
69. Mount __ (Site of King David's Tomb in Jerusalem)
70. Lawyer's undertaking
71. Respites
72. Goes off course

DOWN
1. Out of style
2. Savoury gelatin
3. Brazil's Sao __
4. Feature in a farmhouse-style kitchen: 2 wds.
5. Quebec locale, __-Beauport
6. Go about things quickly
7. James __ (Pulitzer-winning writer)
8. Chair
9. The Spanish __
10. Crook
11. Drollness
12. White House nickname
13. Bit of bling
21. Q. "__ is the alphabet's 21st letter then?" A. "Correct."
23. Shish __ (BBQ sizzler)
25. Skirt length
27. Left ventricle tube
28. __ and true (Reliable)
29. Visionary
31. Chump
32. Actor Chad
34. Calgary __ (Downtown Calgary attraction)
35. Mindful
37. And others [abbr.]: 2 wds.
39. Town in southeastern Saskatchewan
40. Rather wet
41. Kanye, Mae and Adam
42. Isaac's older son
48. Pearl source
50. City creature
52. Flavour
53. Bug: 2 wds.
54. Nora Ephron's writer sister
55. Curve
56. University bigwigs
58. Press
59. Java cups
61. Joan of __
62. Train name in Canada
63. Perhapses
65. Time units, briefly

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
In the next four weeks, you want to get organized! Your priority is to be efficient, effective and productive!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Lucky you! The next four weeks are full of opportunities to enjoy sports events, vacations, parties, playful activities with children and romantic adventure.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Home, family and your private life will be your primary focus in the next month. Continue with repairs and redecorating projects.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Your daily pace will accelerate for the next four weeks because your agenda is busy. Short trips, errands, conversations with many people and increased reading and writing are just some reasons.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Now your attention turns to money, earnings and possessions. Listen to your creative side about money-making ideas in the next few weeks.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Today the Sun enters your sign, where it will stay for the next four weeks attracting people and positive situations to you. It's your turn to re-energize and restore yourself.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Use the next few weeks to start to plan what you want your new year (birthday to birthday) to be all about. Set some goals with deadlines. What's to lose?

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Everyone wants you on his or her team in the next four weeks, which is why your popularity will increase. Enjoy schmoozing with others.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
For the next four weeks, the Sun is at the top of your chart. This is the only time all year this occurs, and it makes you high-viz with everyone, especially bosses and VIPs.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Travel if you can in the next few weeks, because you want to push the boundaries of your world. You want more out of life.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Discussions about shared property and inheritances are a strong focus for you in the next few weeks. Tie up loose details, because things will go in your favour.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
For the next four weeks, the Sun is opposite your sign, giving you a chance to get a better handle on your style of relating to those who are closest to you. Use this to learn something valuable.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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3								5

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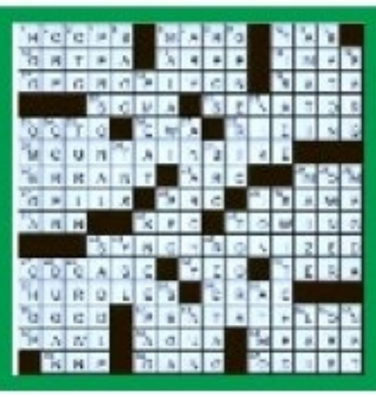

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